

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6605

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11468

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT UR

SUBJECT: LEADERSHIP TIDBITS

1. DURING QUADRIPARTITE MEETING JULY 20, FRENCH AMBASSADOR DE LEUSSE REPORTED THAT BREZHNEV WAS IN A GOOD MOOD AND APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE FRENCH-SOVIET NUCLEAR AGREEMENT JULY 16. DE LEUSSE NOTED THAT BREZHNEV WORE HIS HEARING AID FOR THE OCCASION, AND THAT THE FRENCH DID NOT KNOW HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE SIGNING CEREMONY UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER IN MOSCOW. DE LEUSSE CONFIRMED AS A FACT, PRESUMABLY ON THE BASIS OF WHAT BREZHNEV SAID TO SAUVAGNARGES AT THE SIGNING, THE CURRENT RUMOR THAT BREZHNEV BEGAN HIS SUMMER VACATION JULY 17.

2. LOCAL OBSERVERS AGREE THAT IT NOW SEEMS LIKELY THAT A CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM WILL NOT BE HELD UNTIL THE FALL. FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH, AN EASTERN EUROPEAN SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD THE BRITISH HERE THAT THE HOLDING OF A SUMMER CC PLENUM HAD BEEN SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED AMONG THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP.

3. OTHER LEADERSHIP TIDBITS:

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-- WE THOUGHT WE HEARD MOSCOW RADIO ANNOUNCE ON JULY 13

THAT MOSCOW GORKOM SECOND SECRETARY GREKOV HAD BEEN NAMED
AS SECOND SECRETARY OF THE UZBEK CP, REPLACING V. G.
LOMONOSIV, WHO WAS RECENTLY APPOINTED TO THE LONG VACANT
POST OF CHAIRMAN OF THE USSR STATE COMMITTEE FOR LABOR
AND WAGES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CORROBORATE
THIS POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT CADRE SHIFT;

-- IT SEEMS CURIOUS TO US THAT KIRILENKO, WHO HAS NO
GOVERNMENT POST, ATTENDED THE JULY 15 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS WHICH APPROVED THE 10TH FIVE YEAR PLAN AND AT
WHICH KOSYGIN SPOKE. DOES INR HAVE A THEORY EXPLAINING HIS
ATTENDANCE?
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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